

October 22, 2021

Statement on Ktunaxa Nation Treaty Negotiations

Cranbrook/?a·kiskáq#i?it – On October 21, 2021, the Nasu?kins of the four Ktunaxa Nation governments representing the communities of Yaqit ?a·knuq#i`it (Tobacco Plains), ?akisq#nuk First Nation, Yaqan Nu?kiy (Lower Kootenay) and ?aqam, sanctioned the suspension of the treaty negotiations process and related work being undertaken by the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Council. This suspension will be in place until the Ktunaxa governments can determine their approach to achieving self-government, now that the context has changed significantly. With legislation now in place acknowledging the rights of Indigenous peoples, the Nasu?kins agree that this decision will provide the necessary time and space to hear from the Ktunaxa governments' people, and to undertake a restructuring of this important work for and with Ktunaxa citizens.

The Ktunaxa leadership that comprises the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Financing Committee acknowledge they have always stated that the B.C. Treaty Process was the only option available to them aside from litigation. Some believe they have achieved all that they can through these negotiations.

There is a tremendous amount of good work that has been done thus far to be built upon, and the hope is to continue that work in a way that respects and honours the needs and vision of Ktunaxa citizens for the future, while honouring the work that has been done in past.

No further comment is available at this time.